

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: Alaska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
#1 State	4	The FIPS code for the State of Alaska, "02," is hard coded in the program code.
#2 Report Date	4	The report date month is set to either March or September, based on the current system date.
#3 Local Agency(County or Equivalent Jurisdiction)	3	<p><u>Program Code:</u> LN 4070-4144</p> <p>The program code reports the FIPS code for the location of the office of the worker with the open, primary assignment to the case. If there is no open primary assignment, the program code checks the open supervisory assignment. If there is no supervisory assignment, the program code checks the most recently ended primary assignment.</p> <p>In regard to the number of records reported for Juneau based on the frequency report, the State staff observed the number of reported cases is high for the number of cases in foster care there. The case that was wrong in the case file review was a conversion case. The staff noted that Central Office, which is located in Juneau, was used for conversion cases. The State will review all the Juneau cases to identify those conversion cases that are still incorrectly coded to the Juneau office.</p>
#4 Record Number	4	The State assigns a person number at intake that remains the person number for the individual throughout their life. This is the same number used for NCANDS.
#5 Date of Most Recent Periodic Review (if applicable) ____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)	2	<p><u>Frequency Report:</u> There are 352 (13%) records that have a periodic review date prior to the current report period. The staff indicated these probably reflect cases that had been discharged, but the discharge date was never entered. The State is addressing data clean-up and getting these old cases closed and out of the AFCARS reporting population.</p> <p>There are 1,930 (68%) records missing a periodic review. The State indicated there is a data entry issue.</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Meeting, Placement Tab</p> <p>The functionality implemented in Alaska is similar to that in Wisconsin, but the processes are different. The State is in the process of making corrections to this area to more closely associate the review information with the participant records in addition to the case records. The State needs to clarify for staff the correct use of the fields on the "Meeting Session Details" screen for accurately recording the administrative review.</p>

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		<p><u>Program Code</u>: LNs 4297, 5496-5686</p> <p>The program code correctly reports the date of the most recent "permanency hearing" or the scheduled date of the most recent "child-family 6-month conference" for the current removal episode, and before the end of the current report period.</p> <p>The State incorrectly does not report any review that may have been held during the first seven months after the removal date. The State is to include dates of reviews held during the first seven months of the removal episode.</p> <p>Currently, the condition applied to exclude reviews held in the first 7 months of the removal episode ensures that the reported date is for the current removal episode. When the State changes the program code to include reviews held within the first 7 months after the removal date, it must continue to ensure that the reported date will be for the current removal episode.</p> <p>The State needs to ensure that the periodic review date is mapped for all children in a sibling group.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings</u>: 27 (55%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In all of the error cases, the AFCARS field was reported as blank. In each instance the child had been in care for more than six months.</p>
<p>#6 Child Birth Date</p> <p>____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)</p>	3	<p><u>Screen</u>: Person Management; Basic tab</p> <p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=2,822): There is one 22 year old; two 21 year olds; thirteen 20 year olds.</p> <p>The issue related to older youth being incorrectly reported in AFCARS is addressed in General Requirements #8, and foster care elements #56 and #58.</p> <p>The State needs to instruct case workers that if the date of birth is estimated, the correct day to use is the 15th day of the month.</p>
<p>#7 Child Sex</p>	4	<p><u>Screen</u>: Person Management; Basic tab</p>
<p>#8 Child's Race</p>	2	<p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=2,822): There are 43 records missing data for the race elements.</p>

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a. American Indian or Alaska Native b. Asian c. Black or African American d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander e. White f. Unable to Determine		<p>There are 230 (8%) records reported with two or more races and 5 (.18%) records with “unable to determine” plus a race.</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Person Management; Basic tab The State modified the Wisconsin version of the system by including functionality that will allow for the reporting of all of the race values. However, there is one field labeled “primary race” in which the workers are trained to make the first race selection. The case worker can insert additional race values in a field labeled “race.” The State should reconsider the use of “primary” race field. The Children’s Bureau recommends that Alaska revise the field for race by combining them into one field that is multi-select.</p> <p>The screen also contains three fields for recording multiple ethnicities.</p> <p>If the case worker selects “unable to determine,” the State may want to consider adding a pop-up message to remind the worker of the proper use of “unable to determine.”</p> <p>The State may want to consider including the option “declined” or “refused” to account for those situations in which an individual may refuse to provide the race of the child, or if age appropriate their own race.</p> <p>The State needs to ensure that case workers understand this information is based on the client identifying his/her race. Please refer to the Child Welfare Policy Manual, section 1, AFCARS, 2.B.2, questions #2 and #6.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LN 2653 The State’s values in the race fields are correctly mapped to the AFCARS race values and the default value is space.</p> <p>The program code incorrectly maps responses of both a race and “unable to determine” for the same person. The State should revise in order to prevent the worker from being able to select both.</p> <p>The program code does not check the ethnicity fields for ethnicities that correspond to</p>

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		<p>appropriate AFCARS race categories.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> There were five (10%) records in which an additional race was not recorded by the caseworker.</p>
<p>#9 Hispanic/Latino Origin</p> <p>1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine</p>	4	<p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=2,822): Yes = 113 (4%); No = 2,376 (84%); Unable to determine = 54 (2%); Not reported = 279 (10%)</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Person Management; Basic tab The screen contains a field for Hispanic/Latino and three additional fields for an ethnicity.</p> <p><u>Program code:</u> LNs 2515-2554; 2667-2675 The program code checks the value of the Hispanic field from the person management screen and appropriately maps the State values to the AFCARS values. The default value is blank.</p>
<p>#10 Has the child been clinically diagnosed as having a disability(ies)?</p> <p>1=Yes 2=No 3=Not yet Determined</p>	2	<p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=2,822): Yes = 466 (17%); No = 2,062 (73%); Not yet determined = 174 (6%); Not reported = 120 (4%)</p> <p>The State's practice is for a child is to have an EPSDT exam within 30 days of entering foster care.</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Person Management; Client Info tab The system contains this question on the screen with the same responses as in AFCARS. Additionally, there are screens for the medical profile.</p> <p>The medical profile section of ORCA is a fairly robust module that captures the dates of a health exam, the provider, diagnoses, and Axis I – IV fields. However, the diagnoses fields are text boxes. The text fields for diagnosed conditions must be made into database fields. This appears to be a good section to record a child's health conditions and extract the AFCARS data.</p> <p>The State and Federal team discussed various approaches to capturing and reporting the information required for foster care elements #10 – 15.</p>

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		<p><u>Program Code:</u> LNs 2681-2696 The program code correctly maps the State's values for the clinically diagnosed flag from the episode table to the AFCARS values. The State's value "A" is mapped correctly to blank. The default value is blank.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 7 (14%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In the majority of the error cases, the response should have been "yes" instead of "not yet determined."</p>
<p>#11 Mental Retardation Mental Retardation</p> <p>[0 = Does not apply] 1 = Applies</p>	2	<p>For elements #11-15, also see notes in element #10.</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Person Management; Client Info tab</p> <p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=2,822): There were no records missing information even though there were 120 blank records in #10.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LNs 2702-2746 The program code maps elements #11-15 from individual flag fields for each disability type. Values of "yes" get mapped to "applies" and "no" is mapped to "does not apply."</p> <p>The element is initialized to blank.</p> <p>The program code must be modified so that if the information is missing in element #10, this element must also be blank.</p>
<p>#12 Visually/Hearing Impaired</p> <p>[0 = Does not apply] 1 = Applies</p>	2	<p><u>Screen:</u> Person Management; Client Info tab</p> <p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=2,822): There were no records missing information even though there were 120 blank records in #10.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> The element is initialized to blank.</p> <p>The program code must be modified so that if the information is missing in element #10, this element must also be blank.</p>
#13 Physically Disabled	2	<p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=2,822): There were no records missing information even though</p>

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<p>[0 = Does not apply] 1 = Applies</p>		<p>there were 120 blank records in #10.</p> <p><u>Screen</u>: Person Management; Client Info tab</p> <p><u>Program Code</u>: The element is initialized to blank.</p> <p>The program code must be modified so that if the information is missing in element #10, this element must also be blank.</p>
<p>#14 Emotionally Disturbed</p> <p>[0 = Does not apply] 1 = Applies</p>	2	<p><u>Screen</u>: Person Management; Client Info tab</p> <p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=2,822): There were no records missing information even though there were 120 blank records in #10.</p> <p><u>Program Code</u>: The element is initialized to blank.</p> <p>The program code must be modified so that if the information is missing in element #10, this element must also be blank.</p> <p><u>Test Deck and Case File Review Findings</u>: There were diagnosed conditions in the test deck and from the case files that were entered incorrectly for this category.</p>
<p>#15 Other Medically diagnosed condition</p> <p>[0 = Does not apply] 1 = Applies</p>	2	<p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=2,822): There were no records missing information even though there were 120 blank records in #10.</p> <p><u>Screen</u>: Person Management; Client Info tab</p> <p><u>Program Code</u>: The element is initialized to blank.</p> <p>The program code must be modified so that if the information is missing in element #10, this element must also be blank.</p> <p><u>Test Deck and Case File Review Findings</u>: There were diagnosed conditions in the test deck and from the case files that were entered incorrectly for this category.</p>
<p>#16 Has this child ever been adopted?</p>	3	<p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=2,822): Yes = 71 (3%); No = 1,609 (57%); Unable to determine =</p>

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<p>1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine</p>		<p>2 (.07%); Missing = 1,140 (40%)</p> <p>There is a need for data clean-up based on conversion. The number of records missing this information is too large.</p> <p><u>Screen</u>: Person Management; Client Info tab The system contains this question on the screen with the same responses as in AFCARS.</p> <p><u>Program Code</u>: LNs 2757-2789 The program code checks the value from the screen and correctly maps the State values to the AFCARS values.</p> <p>Missing data are correctly mapped to blank.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings</u>: 20 (40%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In the error cases, the AFCARS files were missing data. In 16 of the cases, the reviewer found the child had not been previously adopted. In two cases, the reviewer could not find the information (more than likely the response was "no").</p>
<p>#17 If yes, how old was the child when the adoption was legalized?</p> <p>[0 = Not Applicable] 1 = less than 2 years old 2 = 2-5 years old 3 = 6-12 years old 4 = 13 years or older 5 = Unable to Determine</p>	2	<p><u>Screen</u>: Person Management; Client Info tab There is a field to record the age of the child at the time of the adoption.</p> <p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=2,822): Not Applicable = 0; Unable to determine = 2 (.07%); Blank = 2,764 (98%)</p> <p><u>Program Code</u>: LNs 2757-2789 The program code checks the age value entered on the screen and maps the State's numerical age ranges to the identical AFCARS values.</p> <p>The program code correctly sets this element to "unable to determine" whenever the response to element #16 is "unable to determine."</p> <p>If the child was previously adopted, but the age is missing, this element is correctly reported as spaces.</p>

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		The program code incorrectly sets this element to spaces when the response to element #16 is "no." The program code must map element #17 to "not applicable" if the child is known to have not been previously adopted.
#18 Date of First Removal from Home ____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)	2	<p><u>Screen:</u> Placements and Services, Services tab</p> <p><u>Frequency Report:</u> There are no dates of first removal prior to 1997.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LNs 4151-4214 The program code reports the earliest episode begin date that has the removal flag set to "Y." If no episodes have the removal flag set to "Y," the program code reports the earliest episode begin date.</p> <p>In instances in which the child had a prior removal episode that was 24 hours or less, the program code incorrectly extracts the date of this episode (if it was the first) as the date of the first removal episode.</p> <p>In instances where the child's first living arrangement is a hospital or a locked facility at the time the agency obtains responsibility for care and placement, the program code incorrectly extracts the date the child entered the hospital or locked facility as the removal date. The program code must be modified to extract the date the child is placed in a foster care setting. For AFCARS reporting purposes, the removal episode does not begin until the child is placed in a "foster care setting." During the sitevisit the State asked for clarification on whether their secure residential settings would apply in this scenario. The answer is "yes," the "removal date" would be when the child left the secure residential setting and was placed in a foster home or group home.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 14 (28%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In the majority of the error cases, the reviewers found earlier dates than what were reported in AFCARS. In eight of these cases, the child actually had multiple removals that were not reported to AFCARS. In each case, the AFCARS data indicated the child only had one removal.</p> <p>In two error cases, the child's first placement was in a hospital. This was the date</p>

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		reported as a first removal date for AFCARS, instead of the date the foster care placement began. In one of the cases, it was the child's only removal episode
#19 Total Number of Removals from Home	2	<p><u>Frequency Report:</u> There are 148 (5%) records with zero removals. Records with only one removal = 2,558 (91%). In the 2007A data file, the number of records with zero removals decreased to 31 (1%), and the number of records with one removal is 2,577 (92%).</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LN 4221 The program code counts the number of episode records for which the removal from home flag is set to "yes."</p> <p>If the very first removal episode for this child was 24 hours or less, it is counted in this element. One-day removals are not to be included in the count for this element.</p> <p>The program code is to be modified to not count removal episodes in which the only placement was in a hospital or a locked facility.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 9 (18%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In the majority of error cases, the reviewers found more removals than what were reported in AFCARS. The AFCARS data indicated only one removal episode.</p>
<p>#20 Date Child was Discharged from last foster care episode (if applicable)</p> <p>____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)</p>	2	<p><u>Frequency Report:</u> There are no dates of discharge from a prior removal that is before 2002.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LNs 5761-5883 Given a two based on the finding of 24-removal episodes.</p> <p>The program code checks for the most recent episode with the discharge flag set to one that is prior to the start of the current removal episode. The corresponding date of discharge from the episode table is reported for this element. One-day removal episodes are excluded. The default value is blank.</p> <p>The program code is to be modified to not extract the ending date of removal episodes in</p>

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		<p>which the only placement was in a hospital or a locked facility.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 10 (20%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In the majority of error cases, the reviewers found more removals than what was reported in AFCARS. There was one record with a date reported for this element, but element #19 indicated only one removal. The reviewer confirmed the child had only one removal episode.</p>
<p>#21 Date of Latest Removal</p> <p>____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)</p>	2	<p><u>Screen:</u> Placements and Services, Services tab</p> <p><u>Frequency Report:</u> There are 156 records with no removal date. The number of records with missing dates of removal in the 2007A file is reduced to 42. The State has been addressing this issue and cleaning up the data.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LNs 4291; 5885-5965 The program code reports the latest date of removal from the episode table. If the date of latest removal is missing the program code reports blank.</p> <p>In instances where the child's first living arrangement is a hospital or a locked facility at the time the agency obtains responsibility for care and placement, the program code incorrectly extracts the date the child entered the hospital or locked facility as the removal date. The program code must be modified to extract the date the child is placed in a foster care setting. For AFCARS reporting purposes, the removal episode does not begin until the child is placed in a "foster care setting." This also applies to "secure residential settings."</p> <p>The State does not include children in the foster care file who at the time the agency removes the child from his or her home, or the child is court ordered into the agency's responsibility for care and placement, runs away, and still is on runaway status as of the end of the report period. The State must include these records.</p> <p>During the site visit the State asked if their residential locked facilities are to be considered in regard to this being the only placement for the child and not to include it in the removal population. The answer is "yes." The same logic that applies to locked</p>

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		<p>facilities and hospitals noted above, applies to locked residential facilities.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 10 (20%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In the majority of error cases, the reviewers found earlier dates of removal than what were reported in AFCARS.</p>
#22 Date of Latest Removal Transaction Date	4	
#23 Date of Placement in Current Foster Care Setting	2	<p><u>Screen:</u> Placements and Services, Services tab The option list does not include "supervised independent living" and "child placed in temporary detention" as "placement ending reasons." The State intends to add these by the end of June, 2007. <i>Post site-visit:</i> These options have been added to the screen.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LNs 4300-4401 The program code reports the begin date of the current placement episode from the episode table with two sets of exceptions. 1) If the current placement is a post-TPR case, the program code checks if the provider was the same for the previous non-TPR placement and correctly reports the begin date of that earlier placement. 2) If the current placement ended for reason of "runaway-custody retained," "trial home visit," "supervised independent living," or "child placed in temporary detention," the end date of the previous placement is correctly reported as the date of the current placement.</p> <p>The program code extracts the start date of a hospital stay. The program code must be modified to exclude acute care stays in hospitals.</p> <p>The State does not include children in the foster care file who at the time the agency removes the child from his or her home, or the child is court ordered into the agency's responsibility for care and placement, runs away, and still is on runaway status as of the end of the report period. The State must report these records. The date of placement will be the date the removal began.</p>
#24 Number of Previous Placement Settings in This Episode	2	<p><u>Program Code:</u> LNs 4406; 5969-6100 The program code counts the number of placements from the episode table for this removal episode.</p>

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		<p>The program code does not exclude acute care hospital visits from the count. The program code must be modified to exclude acute care stays from the number of placements. The State will review its policies and those of Medicaid to determine if there is an established number of days for acute care. The State will provide this information to the Children's Bureau for review.</p> <p>The program code correctly does not increment the count for the second of two consecutive placements with the same provider. However, the program code does incorrectly increment the count if a child returns from "runaway" or a "trial home visit" to the same provider.</p> <p>The code incorrectly does not count one-day placements.</p> <p>The State does not include children in the foster care file who at the time the agency removes the child from his or her home, or the child is court ordered into the agency's responsibility for care and placement, runs away, and still is on runaway status as of the end of the report period. The State must report these records. The date of placement will be the date the removal began and the number of placements in this situation is zero.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 8 (16%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In six of the error cases, the reviewers found more placements than what were reported in AFCARS. All were placements that occurred prior to the implementation of ORCA.</p>
<p>#25 Manner of Removal From Home for Current placement Episode</p> <p>1 = Voluntary 2 = Court Ordered 3 = Not Yet Determined</p>	2	<p><u>Frequency Report:</u> Not yet determined = 2,180 (77%). There are 143 records reported as blank. In the 2007A data file, the number of records missing information decreased to 29.</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Placements and Services, Service tab There is a field on the screen for the workers to enter the date of the voluntary placement agreement.</p> <p>There is a field with a drop down selection list for the case workers to enter "court</p>

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		<p>order,” “voluntary” or “emergency custody.”</p> <p>The State indicated that “emergency custody” is the first step in their removal process. Case workers are incorrectly using this value. There is training taking place on how to use this value. The State is going to make a change to the language to ensure the wording matches practice.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LNs 4410-4460 The program code checks the removal manner code from the current removal episode where the removal flag was "yes." If either the removal flag was not "yes," or there was no valid corresponding value of the removal manner code, the program code reports the most recent removal manner code.</p> <p>The program code maps the State values of "voluntary" and "court ordered" to the corresponding AFCARS values. Based on the State’s comments, “emergency custody” is incorrectly mapped to "not yet determined." The mapping for this will be corrected when the State modifies the screen language.</p> <p>The State should conduct reviews of “voluntary placement agreements (VPA)” to ensure that a VPA continues to be reported in AFCARS even if a court order is obtained at 180 days (or sooner) to retain the child in foster care.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 38 (76%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In all of the error cases the AFCARS data indicated “not yet determined.” In every case the child had been in care for more than three days and the reviewer noted the manner as “court ordered.” In several cases the child had been in care for more than a year.</p>
<p>Actions or Conditions Associated With Child’s Removal (Indicate all that apply with a “1”)</p> <p>[0-Does not Apply] 1-Applies</p>		<p><u>Screen:</u> Placements and Services, Services tab; Remove Reasons field</p> <p>Each of the removal actions or conditions in AFCARS elements #26 - 40 is available as a check-box selection for the worker. The State uses the same text for the check-box labels as the AFCARS names of the data elements.</p>

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		<p>The State also has the option "Mental Injury."</p> <p>The option "conversion" is disabled.</p> <p>The State may want to add options to the list that reflect additional reasons a child may enter foster care. For instance, as a result of the case file review it was noted that the State does a comprehensive job of screening for domestic violence. This could be added to the selections list and mapped to the AFCARS value "neglect."</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LN 4466-4542 Each of the check boxes shown on the removal reasons screen has a corresponding flag field. The program code checks each of these fields and if selected, it sets the corresponding data element #26-40 to "applies." These elements default to blank.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> The data for elements #26 - 40 appear to be underreported based on the case file review findings. There was an underreporting of information for elements #26 – 40, circumstances associated with removal. The majority of errors were due to the reviewers finding that the condition was present and the basis for a child's removal.</p>
#26 Physical Abuse	3	
#27 Sexual Abuse	3	
#28 Neglect	2	<p>The program code does not check for the value of "mental injury." This value should be mapped to element #28, "neglect."</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 7 (14%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. The response should have been "applies" instead of "does not apply."</p>
#29 Parent Alcohol Abuse	2	<p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 23 (47%) of the records analyzed did not match what were reported in AFCARS. The response should have been "applies" instead of "does not apply." In the same cases, "child alcohol abuse" was reported as "applies." Based on comments made by the reviewers and the analysis of the findings, it appears that the workers are selecting the wrong response. The response should have been "applies" for the parent and not for the child.</p>

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		On the screen, this value was listed below the options for the child. The wording on the screen is: “alcohol abuse – parent” and “alcohol abuse – child.” The State should consider either changing the order of the label or reversing the order of the selections.
#30 Parent Drug Abuse	2	<u>Case File Review Findings:</u> There were four records that incorrectly reported as “does not apply” instead of “applies.” See the issue above in element #29 regarding the screen, the same issue applies to this element.
#31 Child Alcohol Abuse	2	<u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 15 (31%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. The response should have been “does not apply” instead of “applies.” In the same cases, “parent alcohol abuse” was reported as “does not apply.” Based on comments made by the reviewers and the analysis of the findings, it appears that the workers are selecting the wrong response. The response should have been “applies” for the parent and not for the child. See the comments in element #29 regarding the screen design.
#32 Child Drug Abuse	2	While there were no errors in the case file review, the findings noted in element #29 apply to this element also.
#33 Child Disability	3	
#34 Child’s Behavior Problem	3	
#35 Death of Parent	3	
#36 Incarceration of Parent	3	
#37 Caretaker Inability to Cope Due to Illness or Other Reasons	3	<u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 6 (12%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. The response should have been “applies” instead of “does not apply.”
#38 Abandonment	3	
#39 Relinquishment	3	
#40 Inadequate Housing	3	
#41 Current Placement Setting 1 = Pre-Adoptive Home 2 = Foster Family Home-Relative 3 = Foster Family Home-Non-Relative 4 = Group Home	2	<u>Frequency Report</u> (n=2,822): Pre-Adoptive Home = 51 (2%); Foster Family Home (Relative) = 819 (29%); Foster Family Home (Non-Relative) = 1,060 (38%); Group Home = 173 (6%); Institution = 159 (6%); Supervised Independent Living = 14 (.5%); Runaway = 41 (2%); Trial Home Visit = 505 (18%); Not reported = 0 <u>Screen:</u> Placements and Services, Service tab; and, Placement Ending

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: Alaska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
<p>5 = Institution 6 = Supervised Independent Living 7 = Runaway 8 = Trial Home Visit</p>		<p>The State indicated there is a placement plan that is written soon after the child enters foster care. A placement plan is completed for each placement change.</p> <p>The staff indicated they have residential homes with 24-hour parents, and there are generally no more than 8 children in the home. They asked for clarification on whether these are group homes or foster homes. They currently map them as "group homes." Based on the description provided by the State, these settings should be mapped to "foster home."</p> <p>The State and Federal team further discussed other types of living arrangements, such as Juneau Youth Services. Based on the description of this center and others in the State, they match the definition in AFCARS for "group home." Currently, the State enters these as "institutions." These are to be entered and extracted as "group homes."</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LNs 4546-4679</p> <p>The program code uses the most recent living arrangement, unless the service type is "medical hospital - unpaid placement," "psychiatric hospital," "psychiatric hospital - unpaid placement" "medical hospital," or "camps-unpaid." In these cases, the program code finds the most recent placement that is not one of these service types. If the program code only finds these types of placements, then the program code uses the most recent episode row.</p> <p>The State incorrectly excludes non-acute hospital stays from being reported as the current placement setting for this element. Non-acute hospital stays should be mapped to AFCARS "institution."</p> <p>After checking the field for placement setting, the program code checks the placement end reason field. If the placement end date is not blank, the program code then maps the State's end reason code from the placement end table to the appropriate AFCARS values.</p> <p>The State has a practice that all children must reside with the adoptive parent for six months prior to the adoption being finalized. If the child has been living with a foster</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: Alaska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		parent that chooses to adopt the child, then this time is counted towards the six months. The State maps the value "adoption pending court order" to "pre-adoptive home."
#42 Is Current Placement Out-of-State? 1=Yes (Out of State placement) 2=No (In-State placement)	4	<u>Screen:</u> Placements and Services, Service tab; Service Type field
#43 Most recent case plan goal 1 = Reunify With Parent(s) Or Principal Caretaker(s) 2 = Live With Relative(s) 3 = Adoption 4 = Long Term Foster Care 5 = Emancipation 6 = Guardianship 7 = Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	2	<p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=2,822): Reunify = 1,257 (45%); Live With Other Relative(s) = 43 (2%); Adoption = 772 (27%); Long-Term Foster Care 69 (3%); Emancipation = 93 (3%); Guardianship = 181 (6%); Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established = 400 (14%); Not reported = 7</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Permanency Plan; Plan Information, Basic Tab The State has a selection choice of "independent living." The Federal team asked the State to define the use of that goal. The State acknowledged it is not a good word choice. But, it is used for older adolescents (age 16 or more) that will probably age out. The State indicated they still work towards a more permanent goal, such as adoption or guardianship. The IL plan is an "exit plan" that is done in addition to a case plan. The State indicated that for these youth they are working on identifying a permanent connection with a foster parent or someone close to the child, and other services associated with the Chafee Foster Care Independent Program. The State is mapping this goal to "long-term foster care." Based on the staff's description of the use of this "goal," it should be mapped to AFCARS "emancipation." The State should also change the wording of this goal to more accurately reflect the case practice that is occurring.</p> <p>The State also has the option "long-term foster care." The staff defined this as being used for children with severe disabilities. However, often there is a family identified as a permanent connection for this child. In these instance, this also should be mapped to AFCARS value of "emancipation."</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LNs 4760-4827 If no permanency plan has been created, the State reports "case plan goal not yet established." If a plan has been created, but the goal has not been selected, the State reports blank for missing data. The State needs to add logic that if the child has been in</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: Alaska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes																		
		<p>care for 60 days or less, and a case plan goal can not be found, then the AFCARS response should be "case plan goal not yet established." However, if on or after 61 days a case plan goal cannot be found, then this element is to be set to blank.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 6 (13%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. The following are the results of the case file review:</p> <table> <tr> <th>AFCARS</th><th>Case File</th><th>Number of Cases</th></tr> <tr> <td>Not yet established</td><td>Reunification</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Not yet established</td><td>Adoption</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Not yet established</td><td>Long-Term FC</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Reunification</td><td>Adoption</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Adoption</td><td>Reunification</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	AFCARS	Case File	Number of Cases	Not yet established	Reunification	1	Not yet established	Adoption	2	Not yet established	Long-Term FC	1	Reunification	Adoption	1	Adoption	Reunification	1
AFCARS	Case File	Number of Cases																		
Not yet established	Reunification	1																		
Not yet established	Adoption	2																		
Not yet established	Long-Term FC	1																		
Reunification	Adoption	1																		
Adoption	Reunification	1																		
<p>#44 Caretaker Family Structure</p> <p>1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male 5 = Unable to Determine</p>	2	<p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=2,822): Married Couple = 704 (25%); Unmarried Couple= 487 (17%); Single Female = 1,092 (39%); Single Male = 168 (6%); Unable to Determine = 218 (8%); Not reported = 153 (5%)</p> <p>There are 184 fewer records reported with a family structure then there are dates of birth for element #45, 1st primary caretaker's date of birth.</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Placements and Services, Services tab Caretaker information must be entered in order to create a removal episode.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LNs 4832-4907 The program code maps State codes for the "caretaking constellation structure" to the identical AFCARS values, including "unable to determine." This element defaults to blank.</p> <p>However, the program code checks if either there is no removal from home indicator in the set of episode records for this child, or there is a removal from home indicator and the caretaker structure code is zero. If either condition is found, the program code incorrectly reports the caretaker structure for the most recent removal episode where the caretaker structure is not null. This approach may not report data for the current</p>																		

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: Alaska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		removal episode. The State must report this element based on the current removal episode. The program code could be incorrectly extracting caretaker from a prior removal episode and for the current episode. If the child has been abandoned or the child's caretakers are otherwise unknown, the State should report "unable to determine."
#45 1 st Primary Caretaker's Birth Year ____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)	3 4	<p><u>Screen:</u> Home Provider, Members Tab</p> <p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=2,822): There are 3 records indicating the caretaker is 10 or younger.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LNs 4912-4947 The program code reports the birth date from the "person" table of the primary caretaker at the time of removal. If no birth date was entered, the State reports blank.</p>
#46 2 nd Primary Caretaker's Birth Year (if applicable) ____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)	3	<p><u>Screen:</u> Home Provider, Members Tab</p> <p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=2,822): There are 8 records indicating the caretaker is 10 or younger.</p> <p>There are 291 records missing a year of birth based on the family structures of "married couple" and "unmarried couple" in element #44.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LN #4952-4990 The program code reports the birth date from the "person" table of the secondary caretaker at the time of removal. If no birth date was entered, the State reports blank.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 8 (17%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. This field was reported as blank, but element #44 indicated a "married couple" or "unmarried couple."</p>
#47 Mother's Date of TPR ____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)	2	<p><u>Screen:</u> Legal Status The State currently has the following fields on the screen for TPR:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hearing Effective Date--used to record date of hearing 2. Date Order Entered--used to record date judge signed 3. Custody End Date--not filled out for TPR

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: Alaska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>The legal screen is used to record a variety of legal actions. Each of the above fields may have different uses based on what legal action is being entered. The State may want to group the legal actions into like categories and then split this screen into separate tabs.</p> <p>The State needs to clarify with case workers what dates are to be recorded in the above fields. For AFCARS reporting purposes, the date the hearing occurred and the judge stated his ruling, is the date that is to be entered for the TPR. In the event the hearing is more than one day, the final day of the hearing is the date that is used for reporting purposes. The State may want to add fields to record continuations.</p> <p>Based on comments from the case file reviewers, case workers are not using the same dates for the field used for AFCARS extraction. The State discussed that the language of "Hearing Effective Date" could be changed to make it semantically correct for TPR by removing "effective" and making it "hearing date." The State would train employees to record the date of the hearing and the code would be changed to pull the AFCARS data from this field instead of "date order entered."</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LNs 5010; 6102-6413 The program code incorrectly extracts the date from the "date order entered" field. The date of the hearing is what is to be extracted for AFCARS.</p> <p>The program code will check for a deceased date if there is no TPR date. The State also needs to modify the program code to select the most recent TPR date for mom.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 10 (20%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. The significant issue found in the case file review was that this element was reported as blank, but the reviewers found a TPR date or a deceased date.</p>
#48 Legal or Putative Father's TPR ____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)	2	<p>See the notes for element #47.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 8 (16%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. The significant issue found in the case file review was that this</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: Alaska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		element was reported as blank, but the reviewers found a TPR date or a deceased date.
#49 Foster Family Structure 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male	2	<p><u>Screen:</u> Placement and Services, Provider Tab</p> <p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=2,822): Married Couple = 1,187 (42%); Unmarried Couple= 71 (3%); Single Female = 477 (17%); Single Male = 64 (2%); Not applicable = 0; Not reported = 1,023 (36%)</p> <p>Based on the frequencies for foster home settings in element #41, there are 1,930 records. However, there are only 1,799 records indicating a family structure for this element.</p> <p>There are 59 more records reported in element #50, 1st foster caretaker's date of birth, than there are records reported with a family structure in the this element.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LNs 5025-5029; 6458-6542 If the current placement setting in foster care element #41 is 1, 2 or 3, the program code maps the State value of marital status code from the provider table to the appropriate AFCARS values.</p> <p>The comments in the program code indicate the worker may be able to select "unable to determine" (5) or "legally separated" (6) for the marital status, but the program code does not explicitly map these values, so they are reported as blank.</p> <p>The program code does not explicitly map the marital status for values of 4-8 in element #41, so they are incorrectly reported as the default blank value for element #49. These cases should be mapped to 0, "not applicable."</p>
#50 1st Foster Caretaker's Birth Year	3	<p><u>Screen:</u> Person Management; Basic tab</p> <p><u>Frequency Report:</u> There are five minors reported as being foster parent 1 (two are 2 years old and three are 9).</p>
#51 2nd Foster Caretaker's Birth Year	3	<p><u>Screen:</u> Person Management; Basic tab</p> <p><u>Frequency Report:</u> There is one 15 year old foster parent in the 2006B data file.</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: Alaska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
<p>#52 1st Foster Caretaker's Race</p> <p>a. American Indian or Alaska Native</p> <p>b. Asian</p> <p>c. Black or African American</p> <p>d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</p> <p>e. White</p> <p>f. Unable to Determine</p>	2	<p><u>Frequency Report:</u> Based on the frequencies for elements #41 and #49, there are records missing race information.</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Person Management; Basic tab</p> <p>The State modified the Wisconsin version of the system by including functionality that will allow for the reporting of all of the race values. However, there is one field labeled "primary race" in which the workers are trained to make the first race selection. The case worker can insert additional race values in a field labeled "race." The State should reconsider the use of "primary" race field. The Children's Bureau recommends that Alaska revise the field for race by combining them into one field that is multi-select.</p> <p>The screen also contains three fields for recording multiple ethnicities.</p> <p>If the case worker selects "unable to determine," the State may want to consider adding a pop-up message to remind the worker of the proper use of "unable to determine."</p> <p>The State may want to consider including the option "declined" or "refused" to account for those situations in which an individual may refuse to provide their race.</p> <p>The State needs to ensure that case workers understand this information is based on the client identifying his/her race. Please refer to the Child Welfare Policy Manual, section 1, AFCARS, 2.B.2, questions #2 and #6.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LN 6583</p> <p>The State's values in the race fields are correctly mapped to the AFCARS race values and the default value is space.</p> <p>The program code incorrectly maps responses of both a race and "unable to determine" for the same person. The State should revise in order to prohibit the worker from being able to select both.</p> <p>The program code does not check the ethnicity fields for ethnicities that correspond to appropriate AFCARS race categories.</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: Alaska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		If the child is in a non-foster home setting, then these fields should be reported as blank.
#53 1 st Foster Caretaker's Hispanic or Latino Origin 0 = Not applicable 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	2	<p><u>Screen:</u> Person Management; Basic tab</p> <p><u>Frequency Report:</u> Based on the frequencies for elements #41 and #49, there are records missing this information.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LNs #6600-6662 State correctly maps its values to AFCARS. The default value is blank.</p> <p>If foster care element #41 is a non-foster care setting, this element is incorrectly reported as blank. When there is no foster parent, this element must be reported as "not applicable."</p>
#54 2 nd Foster Caretaker's Race (if applicable) a. American Indian or Alaska Native b. Asian c. Black or African American d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander e. White f. Unable to Determine	2	<p><u>Frequency Report:</u> Based on the frequencies for elements #41 and #49, there are records missing race information.</p> <p>See findings for foster care element #52.</p> <p>If there is only one foster parent, these fields should be reported as blank.</p>
#55 2 nd Foster Caretaker's Hispanic Origin [0 = Not Applicable] 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	2	<p><u>Frequency Report:</u> Based on the frequencies for elements #41 and #49, there are records missing this information.</p> <p>See findings for element #53.</p> <p>If there is only one foster parent, this element is to be reported as "not applicable."</p>
#56 Date of Discharge from foster care ____(mo) ____ (day)____(year)	2	<p><u>Screen:</u> Placements and Services, Service tab; Placement Ending subscreen, Discharge Ending tab</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LN 5070 The program code checks if the placement discharge flag is "yes" for the latest</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: Alaska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
		<p>placement record for this removal episode in the episode table. If the discharge date is no later than the end of the reporting period, the discharge date is reported for this element.</p> <p>The State made a change to the program code in June 2006 to enter prior discharges.</p> <p>The State needs to develop a method, or have case workers enter, a discharge date for 18+ year olds. For those youth eligible for title IV-E, report the date the child is no longer eligible for IV-E.</p>
#57 Date of Discharge Transaction Date	4	
#58 Reason for Discharge [0 = Not Applicable] 1 = Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s) 2 = Living with Other Relative(s) 3 = Adoption 4 = Emancipation 5 = Guardianship 6 = Transfer to Another Agency 7 = Runaway 8 = Death of Child	2	<p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=2,822): Not Applicable = 0; Reunification = 426 (15%); Living with Other Relative(s) = 8 (.28%); Adoption = 111 (4%); Emancipation = 43 (2%); Guardianship = 32 (1%); Transfer to Another Agency = 5 (.18%); Runaway = 17 (.60%); Death of Child = 1; Not reported = 2,179</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Placements and Services, Service tab; Placement Ending subscreen, Discharge Ending tab</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LNs 5155-5277</p> <p>The State is incorrectly reporting records of children still in care as blank. The program code must be modified to map these records to “not applicable.”</p> <p>The State needs to develop a method, or have case workers enter, a discharge reason of “emancipation” for 18+ year olds. For those youth eligible for title IV-E, report the date the child is no longer eligible for IV-E and a discharge reason of “emancipation.”</p>
#59 Title IV-E (Foster Care) 0-Does not apply 1-Applies	3	<p>The program code checks if at any time during the report period title IV-E applied for the child.</p> <p>In the past there have been problems with obtaining the sample for the title IV-E foster care reviews. The State needs to ensure that these data are accurately determined and entered correctly into the system.</p>
#60 Title IV-E (Adoption Subsidy)	2	The State does claim title IV-E adoption subsidy funds prior to finalized adoptions. In

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: Alaska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
0-Does not apply 1-Applies		general, the program code follows the same logic as above in element #59. However, the State needs to review the code, specifically in the area of legal status. There may be a possibility it is only extracting this data on subsidy finalized adoptions.
#61 Title IV-A (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) 0-Does not apply 1-Applies	1	There is no logic written to extract this data from ORCA, or through a possible interface. The system may have the capacity for this information to be recorded if a relative family is receiving TANF on behalf of the child in foster care.
#62 Title IV-D (Child Support) 0-Does not apply 1-Applies	1 2	As of the AFCARS review, there is no logic written to extract this data from ORCA or through a possible interface. The State staff indicated that the plan is for the interface to be implemented by the end of June 2007. Extraction code is written for insertion once the interface is operational. <u>Post site-visit:</u> The State added program code to populate foster care element #62, IV-D child support. The program code sets this element to “applies” only if the child’s trust account has had a deposit transaction with a benefit type of “child support” no earlier than the start date of the current foster care setting. Although the program code reports only child support deposits that occur after the start date of the current foster care setting, it does not restrict those deposits to being within the current reporting period. The State should modify the code to report deposits that occur only within the current reporting period.
#63 Title XIX (Medicaid) 0-Does not apply 1-Applies	2	There is an error in the program code that prevents this data from being extracted.
#64 SSI or other Social Security Act Benefits 0-Does not apply 1-Applies	1	There is no logic written to extract this data from ORCA or through a possible interface. This information must be reported regardless of the status of implementing an interface for SACWIS.
#65 None of the Above 0-Does not apply	1	The program code does not include any logic for the extraction of this data. The program code should report this as “applies” if none of the elements in elements

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Foster Care Data Elements

State: Alaska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Findings/Notes
1-Applies		#59 - 64 are “applies.” Additionally, the program code should check the child’s assets and determine if there is a source of income, Federal or non-Federal, in addition to one of the above and if so, indicate “applies.”
#66 Amount Of Monthly Foster Care Payment (regardless of source) 0-Does not apply 1-Applies	2	<p>The program code extracts the most recent payment for the report period. If a payment is not found, the program code sets this element to zero. If a payment is found, the program code sums all the payments for the child that were in that month. This could be incorrect if the payments were for other than foster care maintenance. The State also should re-evaluate what is being reported for this element in context to the child’s current living arrangement at the end of the month.</p> <p><u>Post site-visit:</u> The State has added conditions to the program code requiring that a payment has been approved before including it in the sum of monthly payments. The State needs to confirm that this new approval corresponds to a check by the State that the payment is for valid expenses (i.e., room and board). If not, what does this new approval represent?</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements

State: Alaska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Notes/Findings
#1 State FIPS Code	4	The FIPS code for the State of Alaska, "02," is hard-coded in the program code.
#2 Report Period End Date	4	The report date month is set to either March or September, based on the current system date.
#3 Record Number	4	For those children that become part of a "post-TPR" case, the system assigns a new person number to the child. It will assign the next sequential number. Additionally, if the child re-enters foster care, the child's pre-TPR record can be accessed and the child can be "linked" to that case in order to retrieve historical information on the child.
#4 State Agency Involvement 1 = Yes 2 = No	4	<u>Program Code:</u> LN # 2430 This element is hard-coded to "yes" in the program code. See the adoption section of the General Requirements findings.
#5 Child Date of Birth	4	<u>Screen:</u> Person Management; Basic tab
#6 Child Sex 1 = Male 2 = Female	4	<u>Screen:</u> Person Management; Basic tab
#7 Child's Race a. American Indian or Alaska Native b. Asian c. Black or African American d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander e. White f. Unable to Determine	2	<u>Screen:</u> Person Management; Basic tab The foster care findings also apply to this element. <u>Frequency Report</u> (n=2,822): There are 0 records missing data for elements a – f. There are 18 (19%) records reported with two or more races; and, zero records with "unable to determine" plus a race. <u>Program code:</u> LNs 2451-2459; 2844-2951; 629-635; 2953-3015 The adoption extraction program code uses logic identical to the foster care code for the race elements. The foster care findings also apply to the adoption elements.
#8 Child Hispanic Origin 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	4	<u>Screen:</u> Person Management; Basic tab The screen contains a field for Hispanic/Latino and three additional fields for additional ethnicities. <u>Frequency Report</u> (n=96): Yes = 2 (2%); No = 94 (98%); Unable to determine = 0; Not reported = 0

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements

State: Alaska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Notes/Findings
		<p><u>Program code:</u> LNs 2464-2466; 2800-2811. The program code correctly maps the State's codes to the appropriate AFCARS values. The default value for missing data is blank.</p>
#9 Has Agency Determined Special Needs	3 4	<p><u>Frequency Report:</u> (n=96): Yes = 94 (98%); No = 2 (2%)</p> <p><u>Program code:</u> LNs 2485-2492 The response to this element is derived from the response the worker entered for element #10. If the State's value for adoption element #10 is "not applicable," the program code sets adoption element #9 to "no." Otherwise, if there is a response in the field for adoption element #10, then the answer to adoption element #9 is "yes." Missing data are mapped to blank.</p>
<p>#10 Primary Basis for Determining Special Needs</p> <p>0 = Not Applicable 1 = Racial/Original Background 2 = Age 3 = Membership in a Sibling Group 4 = Medical Conditions or Mental, Physical or Emotional Disabilities 5 = Other</p>	2	<p><u>Frequency Report</u> (n=96): Not applicable = 0; Race/Original Background = 12 (13%); Age = 2 (2%); Sibling group = 38 (40%); Medical, etc. = 34 (35%); Other = 8 (8%); Not reported = 2</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Adoption Referral, Background Tab The screen has a field "primary basis for special needs" that is a drop-down selection list.</p> <p><u>Program code:</u> LNs 2497-2512. The program correctly maps the primary bases values to the AFCARS values.</p> <p>The program code incorrectly maps responses of "not applicable" to blank. These should be mapped to the AFCARS value "not applicable."</p>
#11 Mental Retardation	4 2	<p><u>Screen:</u> Person Management; Client Info tab The system contains the same response categories as in AFCARS. Additionally, there are screens for the medical profile.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LNs 2516-2548. The program code correctly extracts the information for elements #11 - 15, only if the value for element #10 is "medical conditions or mental, physical or emotional disabilities," and the clinically diagnosed flag is "yes."</p> <p>The rating factor for elements #11 - 15 has been changed based on the fact that the fields</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements

State: Alaska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Notes/Findings
		are the same used for foster care disability information. The issues identified for the foster care elements (#11-15) apply to these elements also.
#12 Visually/Hearing Impaired	4 2	
#13 Physically Disabled	4 2	
#14 Emotionally Disturbed	3 2	
#15 Other Diagnosed Condition	3 2	
#16 Mother's Birth Year	4	<u>Screen:</u> Adoption Referral, Birth Parents Tab This information is populated from the person screen.
#17 Father's Birth Year	4	<u>Screen:</u> Adoption Referral, Birth Parents Tab This information is populated from the person screen.
#18 Mother Married at Time of Birth 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	2	<u>Screen:</u> Adoption Referral, Birth Parents Tab This information is being collected on the adoption screens and is not on the case management screens. This causes unreliability and underreporting of the data. The State must modify the system to collect this information on one of the screens used during an early period of time after the case opening, such as on the person management screen. <u>Program Code:</u> LNs #2558-2564. The program code correctly maps the State's values to the AFCARS values. Missing data are mapped as blank.
#19 Date of Mother's TPR	2 3	<u>Screen:</u> Legal Status <u>Program Code:</u> LN 1427 See the notes for the TPR elements in the foster care matrix. However, unlike the foster care extraction code, it appears that the adoption program code does extract the effective date and not the date the order is entered.

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements

State: Alaska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Notes/Findings
		<u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 4 (18%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. The reviewers found dates that were earlier than what was reported in AFCARS. The dates reported to AFCARS ranged from a couple weeks later to over a year later than the hearing date.
#20 Date of Father's TPR	2 3	<p><u>Screen:</u> Legal Status</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LN 1427 See the notes for the TPR elements in the foster care matrix. However, unlike the foster care extraction code, it appears that the adoption program code does extract the effective date and not the date the order is entered.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 3 (14%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In one error case, the date was missing in AFCARS, but the reviewer found a date. In the other cases, the date found by the reviewer was earlier than what was reported. The reviewer noted the date the hearing occurred.</p>
#21 Date Adoption Legalized	3 4	<p><u>Screen:</u> Legal Status; Fields: New Legal Status and Date Order Entered The State re-enters the date in the custody field on legal status field.</p> <p>There is an online edit that the discharge from foster care date must match the date for finalization of the adoption.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LNs 1366; 1372-1378; 2569 The program code extracts this date from the effective date on the screen. The default value is blank.</p> <p>Based on final analysis, this element was given a new rating factor.</p>
#22 Adoptive Family Structure 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male	2	<p><u>Frequency Report:</u> There are seven records missing this information. There should be no missing data for this element, especially given the State's practice that all children adopted must reside with the adoptive parents for six months prior to the finalized adoption.</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Maintain Case This is an adoption subsidy screen. The fields used for this element are "case type" and</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements

State: Alaska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Notes/Findings
		<p>“description.” The “description” field is a drop-down list of several types of relationships, and includes non-foster care settings. These are the fields used for the program code. It seems that the “Person Management, Basic Tab” screen is a better option since it contains a field “marital status” and is the screen used for the adoptive family’s date of birth, race and Hispanic origin.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LNs #2572-2619. The program code maps the State codes for marital status to the AFCARS values.</p> <p>The program code maps “38, Two Parents - Marital Status Unknown” to “unmarried couple.” This should be mapped to blank.</p>
#23 Adoptive Mother's Year of Birth	2 3	<p><u>Frequency Report:</u> There are seven records missing this information. There should be no missing data for this element; especially given the State’s practice that all children being adopted must reside with the adoptive parents for six months prior to the finalized adoption.</p> <p><u>Screen:</u> Person Management; Basic tab</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LNs 2225-2298; 2302-2351; 2624-2627 The program code checks if there is a valid person id for the adoptive mom in the case participant table, then gets the value from the adoptive mother's date of birth in the person table. The default value is blank.</p>
#24 Adoptive Father's Year of Birth	2 3	<p><u>Screen:</u> Person Management; Basic tab</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LNs #2624-2627; 2225-2298; 2302-2351 The program code checks if there is a valid person id for the adoptive father in the CASE_PART table, then it gets the value from the adoptive father's date of birth in the PERSON table. The default value is blank.</p> <p><u>Frequency Report:</u> There are seven records missing this information. There should be no missing data for this element; especially given the State’s practice that all children being adopted must reside with the adoptive parents for six months prior to the finalized adoption.</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements

State: Alaska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Notes/Findings
<p>#25 Adoptive Mother's Race</p> <p>a. American Indian or Alaska Native</p> <p>b. Asian</p> <p>c. Black or African American</p> <p>d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</p> <p>e. White</p> <p>f. Unable to Determine</p>	2	<p><u>Screen</u>: Person Management; Basic tab</p> <p>The State modified the Wisconsin version of the system by including functionality that will allow for the reporting of all of the race values. However, there is one field labeled “primary race” in which the workers are trained to make the first race selection. The case worker can insert additional race values in a field labeled “race.” The State should reconsider the use of “primary” race field. The Children’s Bureau recommends that Alaska revise the field for race by combining them into one field that is multi-select.</p> <p>The screen also contains three fields for recording multiple ethnicities.</p> <p>The State may want to consider including the option “declined” or “refused” to account for those situations in which an individual may refuse to provide their race.</p> <p>The State needs to ensure that case workers understand this information is based on the client identifying his/her race. Please refer to the Child Welfare Policy Manual, section 1, AFCARS, 2.B.2, questions #2 and #6.</p> <p><u>Program Code</u>: LNs 2637-2645</p> <p>The State’s values in the race fields are correctly mapped to the AFCARS race values and the default value is space.</p> <p>The program code incorrectly maps responses of both a race and “unable to determine” for the same person. The State should revise in order to prohibit the worker from being able to select both.</p> <p>The program code does not check the ethnicity fields for ethnicities that correspond to appropriate AFCARS race categories.</p> <p><u>Case File Review Findings</u>: For “American Indian or Alaskan Native,” 3 (13%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. In the error cases, this was an additional race that was not reported.</p>
#26 Adoptive Mother's Hispanic Origin	2	<p><u>Screen</u>: Person Management; Basic tab</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements

State: Alaska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Notes/Findings
0 = Not Applicable 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine		<p><u>Program Code:</u> LNs 2650-2652.</p> <p>If a single male adopts a child, this element must be reported as “not applicable,” rather than blank.</p>
#27 Adoptive Father's Race a. American Indian or Alaska Native b. Asian c. Black or African American d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander e. White f. Unable to Determine	2	<p><u>Screen:</u> Person Management; Basic tab</p> <p>The State modified the Wisconsin version of the system by including functionality that will allow for the reporting of all of the race values. However, there is one field labeled “primary race” in which the workers are trained to make the first race selection. The case worker can insert additional race values in a field labeled “race.” The State should reconsider the use of “primary” race field. The Children’s Bureau recommends that Alaska revise the field for race by combining them into one field that is multi-select.</p> <p>The screen also contains three fields for recording multiple ethnicities.</p> <p>The State may want to consider including the option “declined” or “refused” to account for those situations in which an individual may refuse to provide their race.</p> <p>The State needs to ensure that case workers understand this information is based on the client identifying his/her race. Please refer to the Child Welfare Policy Manual, section 1, AFCARS, 2.B.2, questions #2 and #6.</p> <p><u>Program Code:</u> LNs 2662-2670</p> <p>The State’s values in the race fields are correctly mapped to the AFCARS race values and the default value is space.</p> <p>The program code incorrectly maps responses of both a race and “unable to determine” for the same person. The State should revise in order to prohibit the worker from being able to select both.</p> <p>The program code does not check the ethnicity fields for ethnicities that correspond to appropriate AFCARS race categories.</p>
#28 Adoptive Father's Hispanic Origin	2	<p><u>Screen:</u> Person Management; Basic tab</p>

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements

State: Alaska

AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

Data Element	Rating Factor	Notes/Findings
0 = Not Applicable 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine		<u>Program Code:</u> LNs 2675-2677. If a single female adopts a child, this element must be reported as “not applicable,” rather than blank.
#29 –32 0 = Does not Apply 1 = Applies		<u>Screen:</u> Case Closure This is a single select field on the screen. The State needs to modify the data entry to allow more than one selection. The State has a policy that all children being adopted must reside with the adoptive parents for six months before the adoption is finalized. If the child resides with the foster parent that is adopting him or her, then the time in the home counts towards the six months. <u>Program Code:</u> LNs 2683-2693. The program code initializes elements #29-32 to "does not apply." It then checks the value of the adopted by variable and maps at most one element to "applies."
#29 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Stepparent	2	
#30 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Other Relative	2	<u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 1 of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. This was an additional relationship that should have been reported in AFCARS as “applies.”
#31 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Foster Parent	2	<u>Case File Review Findings:</u> 3 (13%) of the records analyzed did not match what was reported in AFCARS. This was an additional relationship that should have been reported in AFCARS as “applies.”
#32 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Other Non-Relative	2	
#33 Child Was Placed from 1 = Within State 2 = Another State 3 = Another Country	4	The system and program code accounts for all of the AFCARS values. Once the State implements the collection and reporting of special needs adoptions that occur through private agencies, it is possible that “another State” may be reported.
#34 Child Was Placed by 1 = Public Agency	4	<u>Screen:</u> Adoption Referral, General Tab <u>Program Code:</u> LNs 2714-2728.

AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FINDINGS: Adoption Data Elements**State: Alaska****AFCARS Reporting Period: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)**

Data Element	Rating Factor	Notes/Findings
2 = Private Agency 3 = Tribal Agency 4 = Independent Person 5 = Birth Parent		The program code correctly maps the State values to the identical AFCARS values. The default value is blank.
#35 Receiving Monthly Subsidy 1 = Yes 2 = No	4	The program code correctly maps the State values to the identical AFCARS values. The default value is blank. If Medicaid is the only subsidy, this element is correctly reported as “yes.”
#36 Monthly Amount	4	
#37 Adoption Assistance - title IV-E	4	The program code correctly maps the State values to the identical AFCARS values. The default value is blank.